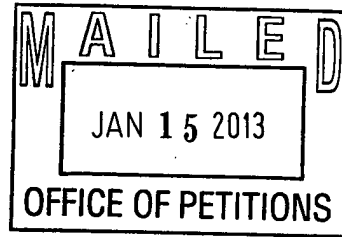




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In re Patent No. 6,443,956 :  
Issued: September 3, 2002 : DECISION UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)  
Application No. 09/668,400 :  
Filed: September 22, 2000 :  
For: VERTEBRAL DRILL BIT AND :  
INSERTER :

This letter is in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c), filed August 31, 2012 and augmented November 15, 2012.

The petition is GRANTED.

This patent expired on September 3, 2010 for failure to pay the 7.5 year maintenance fee. Since this petition was submitted within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), the petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

There is no indication that the petition is signed by a registered patent attorney or patent agent of record. However, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.34, practitioner's signature appearing on the correspondence shall constitute a representation to the United States Patent and Trademark Office that he is authorized to represent the particular party in whose behalf he acts. If practitioner desires to receive correspondence regarding this file, the appropriate power of attorney documents must be submitted. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to practitioner, the petitioner herein. However, until otherwise instructed, all future correspondence regarding this application file will be directed solely to the above-noted correspondence address of record.

The maintenance fee is hereby accepted and the above identified patent is reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.

/ALESIA M. BROWN/

Alesia M. Brown  
Attorney Advisor  
Office of Petitions